

## THE POCASSET TRAGEDY.

**Singular Letter from the Mother of  
the Victim.**

**Strange Mixture of Affection and Ennaticism**  
**—A Weak Imitation of Abraham—**  
**The Sacrifice Not Really Antici-**  
**pated — Divine Interposition**  
**Confidently Looked For**  
**to the Last Moment.**

**A Wretched Mother's Letter.**  
The following letter, written by the wife of Charles P. Freeman to her sister-in-law in Natick, where Freeman formerly resided, gives new light upon their madness and shows their "faith" quite different from that shown by Abraham when called to offer up his son Isaac:

BARNSTABLE, Mass., May 10, 1879.

DEAR SISTERS: We have received your letters, and I feel looked for you for a long time. I never thought it would find me here. Am glad to know you are all well. Wear no need of nothing, but we thank you for your kind thoughts for our comfort. Have you any more of those letters? I would like how it all came to be. You know how dearly we both loved our precious little one. We have tried for more than a year to live entirely devoted to God and to each other, and to do nothing but what we

was not pure in purpose. You would hardly have believed it was Charlie. He never was profane, had not drunk since I knew him, and was one of the best of husbands and fathers; but how he commenced a life of prayer and faith in God, and I with him. He read his Bible every spare moment and his whole life was spent in Christian, earnest work for good and his whole aim (not neglecting other duties) was to win souls to Christ and seek himself eternal life. One trial of our faith came after another, and God blessed us very much the more we trusted Him. By and

new trials. Charlie did not sleep nor eat, scarcely for nearly two weeks. During those days he said that he felt for the first time that God required him to have the faith of Abraham. You know what that was in regard to Isaac. He could not get away from it; the more he tried the more it came home to him. At last he said to the Lord he would be willing to bear the test that God had put him to. He said, "That seemed to end it for the day. That night it came to him more powerfully: he could not help it. Oh, God, none knows how I suffered! But having such great faith in God to believe He would stop him just as He did Abraham—that it was only a man's hand—then I said, 'I will not move, his fear to disobey God, and that he had Abraham's faith, I could not under him. But neither will I'."

mon claim that the day would fall to come. We thought God would see our faith and give us some token of acceptance. We believed God would thunder from Sinai before any harm should come to our darling; but when I found my precious Edie gone, O, Father, how I felt! But comfort seemed to come again. Abraham believed God would raise Isaac, and so we felt that it was God's plan to take her so as to raise her from the dead, and thus show His mighty power and love. We did believe He would do this in order to show the world that the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob still

world that there is scarcely a difference between the two. We believed this was to be, and that Edie would yet go with Charlie to preach the Gospel of the kingdom. What a power she would be! What glory to His cause! Elijah, Elisha, Christ and the Apostles raised the dead, and why should not God do it now as then? We believed He would. But the time has so far passed, and we are here. And we are the innermost of any crime. Charlie still thinks God will justify to the eyes of men and glory, and himself be justified to the eyes of

Oh, you cannot know my sorrow! It almost breaks my heart! My dear, dear, Edlie! Charlie is innocent, oh, he is, of any crime; but I am afraid it was a mistaken faith in God. Dear Lord, help us in our need.

HATTIE.

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**EPISCOPAL VISITATION.**

**Plan Adopted for the Fall Conferences.**

WHEELING, W. Va., May 18.—The bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church are holding

their semi-annual meeting in this city. Bishops Scott, Simpson, Foster, Peck, Wiley, Bowman, Merrill, Havens, and Andrews are in attendance. They have arranged the following plan of Episcopal visitation for the bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the fall conferences of 1870: Alabama—Murfrees Valley, November 20; Scott, Austin—Denison, November 20; Merrill, California—San Jose,

September 13; Haven, Central Alabama—  
Huntsville, November 27; Scott, Central Ger-  
man—New Albany, August 27; Simpson, Central  
Illinois—Monmouth, October 8; Haven, Cen-  
tral New York—Cortland, October 7; Bowman,  
Central Ohio—Lima, September 10; Simpson,  
Central Tennessee—Nashville, November 27;  
Wiley, Chicago German—Chicago, Sept. 24;  
Andrews, Cincinnati—Urbana, September 3;  
Simpson, Colorado—Pueblo, August 7; Mer-

Haven, Delaware—Cambridge, July 24; Scott, Denmark—Copenhagen, July 2; Wiley, Des Moines—Des Moines, August 27; Harris, Detroit—Ann Arbor, September 10; Bowman, East Ohio—Akron, September 24; Foster, Erie—Mercer, September 24; Bowman, Foo-Chow—Foo-Chow, October 15; —, Genesee—Buffalo, October 8; Foster, Georgia—Atlanta, November 12; Scott, Germany and Switzerland—Bremen, June 21; Wiley, Illinois—

Illiana—New Albany, September 10; Peck, Iowa—Burlington, September 3; Harris, Michigan—Jonia, September 10; Foster, Minnesota—Winona, October 1; Peck, Montana—Butte, July 3; Merrill, Nebraska—Lincoln, October 8; Harris, Nevada—Winnemucca, September 25; Haven, North Ohio—Wooster, September 17; Foster, Northwest German—St. Paul, October 8; Peck, Northwest Indiana—South Bend, September

ber 2; Harris, Northwest Swedish-Moline,  
September 4; Andrews, Norway-Havager,  
July 24; Wiley, Ohio-Gallipolis, September  
24; Simpson, Oregon-Portland, September  
29; Haven, Pittsburg-Pittsburg, October 8;  
Bowman, Rocky River-Chicago, October 8;  
Andrews, St. Louis German-St. Louis, Sep-  
tember 3; Bowman, Savannah-Rome  
December 4; Scott, Southwest Indi-  
ana-Lawrenceburg, September 3; Peck,

4; Haven. Southern German—Industry, November 27; Merrill. Southern Illinois—Salem, September 10; Andrews. South India—Allahabad, December 4; —, Sweden—Stockholm, July 10; Wiley. Tennessee—Lebanon, November 20; Wiley. Texas—Galveston, December 10; Merrill. Upper Iowa—Davenport, September 24; Harris. Utah—Provo, July 17; Merrill. Western German—St. Joseph, September 11; Harris. Western

Virginia—Morgantown, October 1; Simpson, Western Wisconsin—Lacrosse, September 24; Peck. Wisconsin—Milwaukee, October 1; Andrews.

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**A Murderer Arrested.**

SAN FRANCISCO, May 18.—The murderer of Paul Belger, the Front street merchant, whose body was recently found in Marin County, was arrested in Sonoma County yesterday, and

**A steamer Wrecked.**  
PROVIDENCE, R. I., May 18.—The steamer Ashland, Captain Hunter, of the Clyde Line, from New York for Fall River, in ballast, went ashore on Point Judith at 7:30 o'clock last night, during a fog. The crew were saved.

**An Improvement on Zach.**  
[Buffalo Express.]  
We would suggest to Zach, Chandler an improvement on the old general order, thus: "Kill the pugilist; the fatted calf has returned."

**The Bully and the Blower.**  
[Cleveland Herald.]  
He who Bullies is a Blackburn and he who Blows is a Beck.

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